

Memo

Ending Homelessness

To: Chief Program Officer
From: Modou Nyang- Community Capacity Specialist
CC: Community Capacity Manager, Subregional Planners
Date: 05/1/2023
Re: System Re-procurement Strategy

Background: The Organization's Five-Year Plan (5YR Plan) lays out a roadmap toward the agency's reduction and elimination of housing instability and homelessness in King County. Since most of our current portfolio of homeless service investments and associated contracts were inherited from King County, the City of Seattle, and smaller cities within the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), the agency must undergo a re-procurement of its current investments to meet the goals and outcomes stated in the 5YR Plan. This approach also offers an opportunity to implement equity guide principles and practices that allow for active community participation in the regional response system.

Starting in February of 2023, the Capacity team, and Procurement Team, with the support of the Programs Division, began the initial internal planning process for the re-procurement. Embodying the agency's Equity-Based Decision-Making Framework, all staff were invited to engage in the internal planning process. On average, there were a total of 123 staff members and 92 community members with lived experience of homelessness who attended weekly meetings from February 10th - March 31st, 2023.

Recommendations

Key recommendations have been determined because of the collective planning completed in Q1 of 2023.

1. ***Staggered RFP Release:*** to minimize strain on internal and external staff capacity, which may be exacerbated by the release of one large or a couple of large RFPs, a staggered approach is recommended. This will ensure the re-procurement results in building a system of redesigned homeless services that

address housing instability and homelessness across King County. This approach combines and releases some programs together so that raters can review proposals with systems thinking in mind.

2. *Investments Excluded from The Re-Procurement Process:*

- All Permanent Housing Programs (PSH) due to King County are still holding several PSH contracts, and the need to ensure housing/ funding plans are in place to ensure program sustainability.
- Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Services were procured in 2023 because re-procuring this program area now may impact the stability of the program since it was only recently established.
- Safe Parking will not be re-procured because investments were released in 2022 and new services were procured with new funds in 2023. Ramp-up time has been slow for this program area and a re-procurement of these funds would likely be disruptive.
- HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) grant funds will not be included in the re-procurement process. This grant has its own renewal and procurement process which is dictated largely by HUD. Instead, the agency will continue to work with the CoC board and its membership to continue to improve upon alignment with the CoC Goals and Priorities, while also making improvements to CoC monitoring and developing a client-centered program evaluation process.